



PARENTS FOR LABEL & DRUG FREE EDUCATION

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Public Hearing 2pm, 1D, February 2, 2015

General Law Committee Members,

My name is Sheila Matthews. I am the cofounder of AbleChild, a 501 (C) (3) organization. Our mission is informed consent regarding psychiatric drugs and psychiatric labels.

AbleChild represents the consumers. We request an amendment to the following bills:

Proposed S.B. No. 28 AN ACT REQUIRING GENERIC PHARMACEUTICAL LABELS TO CONTAIN MANUFACTURER NAMES AND LOCATIONS.

Proposed H.B. No. 5032 AN ACT CONCERNING LABELING OF PRESCRIPTION DRUG CONTAINERS.

to include that all prescription drug labels and containers include the 1-800 MedWatch phone number so that consumers (and all who have direct contact with the products) have immediate access to the "adverse drug reaction" reporting system regardless of whether the drug is a brand name or a generic.

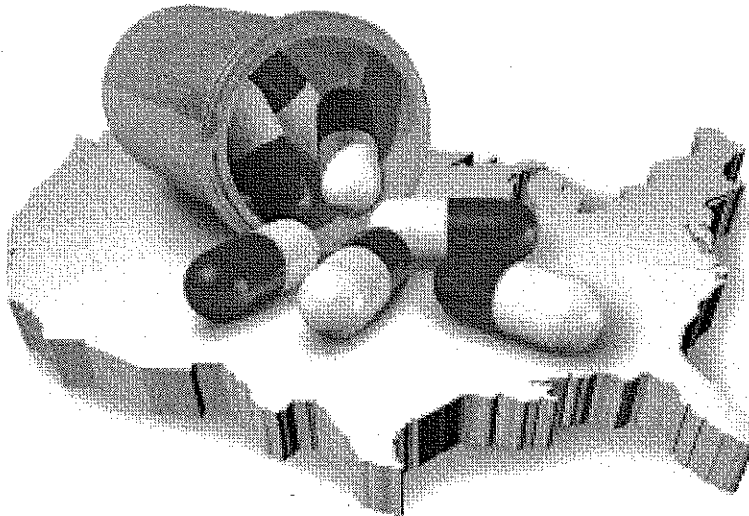
According to the FDA less than 1% of consumers report adverse events through the MedWatch program. Why? The consumers are unaware of MedWatch existence and, therefore, have no access to it. The FDA wants to hear from the consumers to help keep our drug supply safe.

This is a great opportunity to incorporate this critical consumer information directly on the container to ensure access and awareness.

According to George W. Merck, president of the pharmaceutical giant, Merck, giving a speech at the Medical College of Virginia after Merck Company had just won the Nobel Prize for Medicine for its discovery of Cortisone - a drug that allowed people crippled and bed ridden with arthritis not only to walk, but to climb stair and dance.

Mr. Merck said, "We try never to forget that medicine is for the people". AbleChild couldn't agree more. Surely, Mr. Merck, himself, would support our amendment.

Prescription drugs are currently responsible for more deaths annually than illegal drugs. According to Tom Frieden, the CDC director himself, "it's a big problem, and it's getting worse [3]."



Out of the 783,936 annual deaths from conventional medicine mistakes, *approximately 106,000 of those are the result of prescription drug use* [1]. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association, (291), two-hundred and ninety people in the United States are killed by prescription drugs every day [4].

Source: <http://www.collective-evolution.com/2013/05/07/death-by-prescription-drugs-is-a-growing-problem/>

We urge a MedWatch Amendment and welcome the opportunity to work with all involved to protect the consumer and public safety.